carefully calibrate the pace and extant of external liberalisation in order to fully project labour interests. The existing labour laws in India already protect the interests of the various sections of the labour force. The Second National Commission on Labour while developing the framework in its recommendations is expected to take into account the economic environment involving rapid economic changes, globalisation of economy and liberalisation of trade and industry so that the existing labour laws are in tune with the future labour market needs and demands.

Manpower Exports

2006. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of man power exports busted in the country during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons arrested and prosecuted so far; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Government has granted under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983, prosecution sanctions, during the year 2001, in respect of 18 agencies/individuals involved in sending persons abroad illegally.

(b) A total of 35 persons are involved in these 18 cases. These prosecution cases are pending in appropriate Courts.

(c) With a view to curbing the activities of unscrupulous agencies/ individuals, detailed guidelines have also been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administration for issue of necessary instructions right down to the level of police stations for keeping a strict vigil on the activities of unscrupulous agencies/individuals.

Health Hazards to Construction Workers

2007. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey about the workers engaged in construction and repair of roads in the country;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that these workers face many health hazards due to heating of bitumen smoke and dust on the roads;

(d) if so, whether medical facilities are extended to them;

(e) if not, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) No survey about the workers engaged in construction and repair of roads as such has been conducted. However, as per the Sample Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization during 1999-2000, there are 1.76 crore workers employed in construction sector. The Government has enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 to regulate the conditions of work and provide health and safety measures for construction workers. The Rules framed under the Act have detailed provisions prescribing safety standards, welfare measures and medical facilities such as periodical medical examination occupational health services, arrangements with near by hospitals emergency medical services and maintaining ambulance vans etc.

Amendments in Labour Laws

2008. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently approved the amendments in various labour laws paving the way for the second generation of reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Second National Labour Commission set up with the specific job to study and rationalise various labour laws in the organised sectors has been largely rendered irrelevant in view of Government's pre-emptive decisions ahead of the Commission's recommendations in the matter; and